

# AmeriCorps\*State School Turnaround Grant

## Grant Information Conference



**Please email [DHS.Servellinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.Servellinois@Illinois.gov)  
to record your attendance**

# Grants Information Conference Agenda

- **FAQs**
- **Serve Illinois Commission**
- **National Service**
- **AmeriCorps\*State Programs**
- **2013 School Turnaround NOFA**
  - Eligible Schools/Programs
  - Application procedure
  - Program requirements

# FAQs

- Questions and responses provided at the Bidders' Conferences are not considered valid and official.
- All questions and responses will be posted in writing, via a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://www.serve.illinois.gov>. All questions and answers posted in the FAQs on the website are considered valid and official.

# **Serve Illinois Commission**

**The Illinois Commission on  
Volunteerism & Community Service**



# Serve Illinois Commission

## State Agency Location

- **Housed within the Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Community Services.**





# Serve Illinois Commission

## Make-up and Duties

- 40 Governor-appointed commissioners
- Fund and administer AmeriCorps\*State programs
- Promote National Days of Service
- Coordinate training and professional development
- Volunteer Recognition
- Collaborate with volunteer organizations



# Serve Illinois Commission Mission

- **Mission:** To improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State.



# **National Service and AmeriCorps**



# National Community Service Trust Act of 1990

- Established the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).
- Required the establishment of state service commissions.
- CNCS is the federal funding entity of AmeriCorps.



# Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009



# Themes of the Act

- **Focuses service on key national issues**
- **Expands opportunities to serve**
- **Builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits and communities to succeed;**
- **Encourages innovative approaches to solving problems**

# 2011-2015 CNCS Strategic Plan

- **Service as a Solution**
- **Expanding Opportunities to Serve**
- **Build Enduring Capacity**
- **Embrace Innovation**

# National Service Partners



**The Serve Illinois Commission administers AmeriCorps\*State programs and partners with other national service programs.**



# Senior Corps

- RSVP - Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- FGP - Foster Grandparents Program
- SCP - Senior Companions Program



# AmeriCorps

- **VISTA – Volunteers in Service to America.**
  - Elimination of poverty
  - Capacity building – Members perform little to no direct service
  - Overseen by CNCS
- **NCCC – National Civilian Community Corps**
  - Members housed for 10 at regional bases.
  - Sent to several service projects throughout the region during that time
  - Overseen by CNCS
- **National Direct Programs**
  - Members perform direct service for agencies that operate in multiple states
  - Overseen by CNCS
- **AmeriCorps\*State Programs**
  - Member perform direct service for agencies that operate in one state
  - Overseen by State Commissions (Serve Illinois)



# Learn and Serve America

- Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning that connects classroom instruction with meaningful service to the community.
- Learn and Serve integrates community service into K-12 schools.
- Congress has not funded the program since 2011



# AmeriCorps\*State Programs

# AmeriCorps Programs

## ■ AmeriCorps “programs” are:

- ✓ Public or private non-profit organizations
- ✓ Labor organizations
- ✓ Community organizations
- ✓ Faith-based organizations
- ✓ Institutions of higher education
- ✓ States, territories and other government entities
- ✓ Indian Tribes
- ✓ Partnerships of the above





# AmeriCorps Service

- **AmeriCorps Motto -  
“Getting Things Done”**
- **Focus on direct service in the community**
  - Tutor and mentor
  - Assist crime victims
  - Community health outreach
  - Recruit volunteers
  - Prisoner outreach
  - Environmental protection
  - Restoration of parks
  - Adult literacy
  - Prenatal care



# AmeriCorps Members

- **Build leadership skills, an ethic of service, and civic engagement.**
- **Strengthen Communities**
  - Programs involve the community
  - Build relationships with faith- and community-based organizations



LeaderCorps Planning Retreat 2006

# AmeriCorps Members

## Terms of Service:

- Full Time = 1,700 hours of service in 9 to 12 months
- Part Time = 900 hours
- Reduced Part Time = 675
- Quarter Time = 450
- Minimum Time = 300





# AmeriCorps Member Benefits

## ■ Living Allowance

- \$12,100 (minimum)-\$24,200 (maximum) per member
- Not required if less than full-time

## ■ Education Award

- \$5,550 for full-time members (pro-rated for less than full-time)
- Pay student loans or attend school



# AmeriCorps Member Benefits

## ■ Loan Deferment

Student loans may be deferred during service time

## ■ Child Care

Available for income-eligible full-time members

## ■ Health Care

Available to all full-time members



National and Global Youth Service Day 2006



# Member Prohibited Activities

While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS, staff and members may not engage in the following activities (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

- a. Attempting to influence legislation;
- b. Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- c. Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- d. Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- e. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- f. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;

# Member Prohibited Activities

- g. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
- h. Providing a direct benefit to—
  - i. A business organized for profit;
  - ii. A labor union;
  - iii. A partisan political organization;
  - iv. A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and

# Member Prohibited Activities

- v. An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph 3.g. above, unless CNCS assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
- i. Conducting a voter registration drive or using CNCS funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
- j. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
- k. AmeriCorps members may not raise funds for living allowances or for an organization's general (as opposed to project) operating expenses or endowment;
- l. AmeriCorps members may not write a grant application to the Corporation or to any other Federal agency; and
- m. Such other activities as CNCS may prohibit.

# Member Prohibited Activities

AmeriCorps members may not engage in the above activities directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed above. Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non- CNCS funds. Individuals should not wear the AmeriCorps logo while doing so.



# AmeriCorps\*State Programs

## Program responsibilities:

- Recruit members
- Application process
- Interview process
- Background checks
- Member contracts
- Member timekeeping
- Foster communication among Members
- Member close-out





# **2013 School Turnaround Grant**

# Eligible Schools

- For purposes of this *Notice*, eligible schools are defined as Tier I and Tier II schools that are receiving SIG funds to implement one of the four SIG models<sup>3</sup>; Tier I and Tier II schools that, at the time of the applicant's application submission, have been formally notified that they will receive SIG funds to implement a SIG model in the 2013-2014 school year; and priority schools that are implementing in the 2012-2013 school year or will implement in the 2013-2014 school year interventions aligned with the ESEA flexibility turnaround principles<sup>4</sup>.
- <sup>4</sup> To be eligible to receive services by programs funded through School Turnaround AmeriCorps grants, schools must have been identified as a priority school by their SEA at the time of the applicant's application submission and must either (1) be implementing interventions aligned with the turnaround principles in the 2012-2013 school year or (2) are committed to implement interventions aligned with the turnaround principles in the 2013-2014 school year.

# Eligible Schools

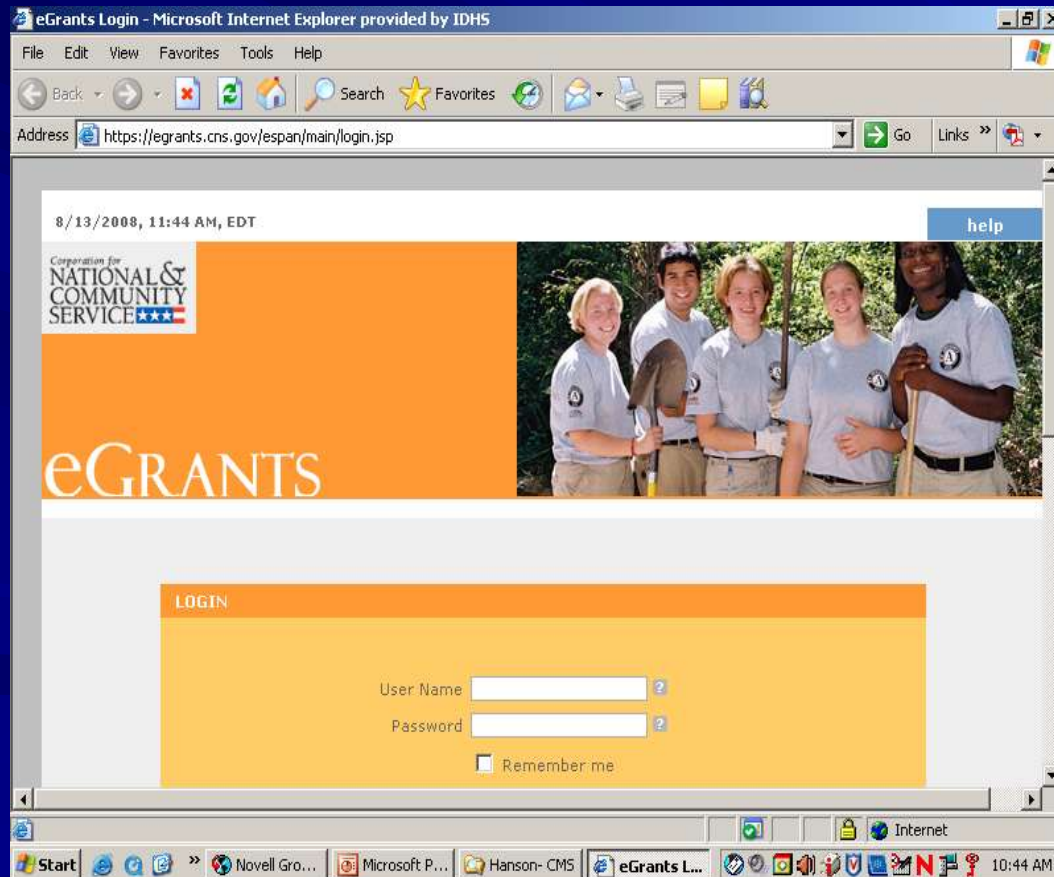
- Currently funded School Improvement Grant Schools (Cohort 1, 2, and 3)
- Tier 1 – FY2013
- Tier 2 – FY2013
- See full list at [www.Serve.Illinois.gov](http://www.Serve.Illinois.gov)

# Grant Timeline

- **Letter of Intent Due – March 22**
  - Failure to submit a letter of intent will void application
  - Serve Illinois reserves the right to halt the application process based on an organization's letter of intent
- **Applications Due to Serve Illinois via EGrants – April 4**
- **Award Notification – Mid July**
- **Contracting with DHS – August/September**
- **Program Start – August/September**

# EGrants

- All applications must be submitted in the CNCS online eGrants system.





# Other Documentation

■ Documents to be submitted to Serve Illinois Commission by 1:00 pm CDT on April 4, 2013:

- 1) Audit / Financial Statements
- 2) Labor Union Concurrence
- 3) Indirect Cost Rate Approval Letter
- 4) Letter(s) of Support from eligible partner schools and their corresponding LEAs

# Program Areas

- Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.
- Establishing a school culture and environment that improve school safety, attendance, and discipline and address other non-academic factors that impact student achievement, such as students' social, emotional, and health needs.
- Accelerating students' acquisition of reading and mathematics knowledge and skills;
- Increasing graduation rates through strategies such as early warning systems, credit-recovery programs, and re-engagement strategies.
- Increasing college enrollment rates through college preparation counseling assistance to include completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and college applications, and educating students and their families on financial literacy for college; or
- Supporting school implementation of increased learning time.

# Award Amount

- Two types of funding
  - Cost Reimbursement - \$250,000 to \$1,000,000
  - Education Award Only (EAP) Fixed-Amount Grants – \$16,000 - \$80,000
  - Only \$5,000,000 will be made available for the national competition
- 3 year grant
- Yearly continuation is contingent on performance

# Eligible Applicants

- Public/private Nonprofit Organizations
  - Including faith-based and community
- Schools or LEAs
- Colleges and Universities
- Governmental entities
- Indian Tribes
- Labor Organizations
- Partnerships of the above



# Match Requirements

## ■ EAP

- No match requirements
- Grant only covers small portion of support for Members

## ■ Cost Reimbursement Grant

- 24% cash/in-kind match for first three years
- Match requirement begins to increase in year four

# CNCS Priority Areas

- Applicants are required to select performance measures from the federal list of measures
- Failure to select and align measures using the CNCS requirements will void application

# Grant Review

## ■ Basic Selection Criteria:

### 1) Program Design 50%

AmeriCorps Members as highly effective means to support and sustain school turnaround efforts– 15%

Evidence-informed and measurable impact– 15%

AmeriCorps Member recruitment– 5%

AmeriCorps Member training– 5%

AmeriCorps Member supervision– 5%

AmeriCorps Member experience– 3%

Org. commitment to AmeriCorps identification – 2%

# Grant Review

## ■ Basic Selection Criteria:

### 2) Organizational Capability 25%

Organizational background and staffing– 8%

Sustainability– 5%

Compliance and accountability– 9%

Continuous improvement– 3%

### 3) Cost effectiveness and Budget Adequacy 25%

Serve Illinois reserves the right to select applicants based on other criteria including:

Geographic area

School focus

Past performance with other Serve Illinois grants



# Budget

- **Three sections in an AmeriCorps program budget:**
  - 1) Section 1 – Program Operating Costs**
  - 2) Section 2 – Member Costs**
  - 3) Section 3 – Administration Costs**

# Budget

- **Section 1 – Program Operating Costs**
  - 1) **Personnel Expenses and Fringe Benefits**
  - 2) **Staff Travel – Including \$2,000 to attend CNCS and Commission events**
  - 3) **Member Travel – Including sufficient funds to attend National Service Recognition Day**
  - 4) **Equipment - \$5,000 max. per unit**
  - 5) **Supplies - \$1,000 max per unit**
  - 6) **Contractual - \$750 per day max**
  - 7) **OnCorps - \$1 per member per month for reporting**
  - 8) **Background Checks – Illinois, home state, FBI, CANTS, and National Sex Offender Registry**

# Budget

## ■ Section 2 – Member Costs

- 1) Living Allowance - \$12,100 minimum for full time members.
- 2) Member Support Costs – FICA, Worker's Compensation, Health Care. No unemployment insurance.

# Budget

## ■ Section 3 – Administration Costs

**Two options:**

- 1) CNCS Fixed Percentage Method - Equal to maximum 5.26% of federal grant funds.**
- 2) Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate (IDC) Method**

**Serve Illinois will retain a share of the 5.26% to support training and monitoring**

**\*See application instructions for details**



# Other Requirements

## ■ Commission-Sponsored Trainings/Events

1) Program Director  
Trainings (Fall & Spring)

2) Monthly Phone Calls

3) National Service  
Recognition Day

4) Other trainings as  
required by the  
Commission

5) Days of Service – MLK  
Day, AmeriCorps Week,  
9/11 Day of Service

# Questions

Contact:

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Springfield, IL 62702

800-592-9896  
[DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov)